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Yuri**STATE OF ALASKA**
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES*CENTRAL REGION - Division of Construction and Operations*
Aviation Construction

Frank Murkowski, Governor

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September 12, 2003

James Helfinstine
District Bridge Program Administrator
USCG, 17th District
P. O. Box 25517, Juneau, AK 99802-5517Ref: Iliamna River Bridge Replacement
30446142 / 56667

Mr. Helfinstine,


I am responding to your letter of August 27, 2003 to Mr. Yuri Morgan of the Denali Commission. I would like to summarize project development aspects of this important project. The project was initiated as a maintenance project to replace service on an historic bridge that is reaching the end of its useful life. The project is being funded by the Denali Commission with federal dollars. These moneys are being administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation. The Denali Commission is an innovative federal-state partnership established by Congress in 1998 to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout rural Alaska. This project was selected as providing an immediate need and meeting the basic philosophy of the Denali Commission. The ADOT has provided state match funds. The department has determined it is in the public's best interest to negotiate a supplemental agreement with Wilder Construction to accomplish this work. They currently are working in the area on the Iliamna Airport and road. The contractor has the equipment and resources to accomplish this work. Discussions have begun to enter into a design/build project for the foundations and the erection of the Bridge.

This project will leave the existing 181 by 11.6 foot wide historic truss bridge on the original site. Pedestrian approaches will be preserved while the existing road material will be removed to existing grade. This material will be incorporated into the new approaches. A 190 foot by 24 foot clear span modular Bailey bridge will be placed immediately downstream of the existing structure. The temporary Bailey bridge will be placed at a location, which will require a short 130-foot to 200-foot realigned road segments. This work is being accomplished for maintenance purposes. The long range planning for this region will incorporate an evaluation of terminus development, future road improvements, surfacing, and a permanent replacement for this bridge crossing. This work effort has been planned for design funding in 2004 and construction funding for 2009.

The department solicited for competitive bids for a Bailey bridge. Two bidders responded and the most responsive bidder was issued a notice of intent to purchase. The Bailey Bridge Company is currently in the process of fulfilling this order. They have scheduled the first shipment to leave the plant in Fort Payne, Alabama next week. The bridge will be offloaded in Homer and provided to the contractor as an owner supplied materials. The contractor will construct the project under the administration of the ADOT.

If you have additional questions, don't hesitate to call. 269-0770.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Scott
For Regional Director

Cc: Yuri Morgan, Denali Commission
Tony Barter, P.E., Project Manager